

News Release



US Army Corps of Engineers Great Lakes and Ohio River Division

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For Release: Immediate Phone: 513-684-3010/3097

Security heightened at US Army Corps of Engineer Facilities

Cincinnati, Ohio-- The United States Army Corps of Engineers is upgrading security at all navigation locks and dams, flood control reservoirs and recreational facilities throughout the Ohio River Valley and Great Lakes Region.

These security changes could involve the public in several ways: new visible access limitations; more access restrictions as national or local threat conditions are elevated; previous public safety limitations upgraded to enforceable security restrictions and requests for heightened public awareness and vigilance.

Since September 11, 2001, the US Army Corps of Engineers conducted security assessments at all facilities in order to protect the public and critical federal facilities. Assessments resulted in recommendations for additional security measures such as electronic security systems, lighting, fencing and other access restrictions designed to improve safety, security, detection and response.

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Normal security measures will be increased when federal or local threat advisories are elevated indicating increased risk of terrorism. The level of security at lock and dams, flood control reservoirs, hydropower plants and other US Army Corps of Engineer facilities will be more restrictive and public access limitations can be enforced by local law enforcement.

Security restrictions may be imposed for areas that were previously limited for safety reasons. This could include boating access near reservoirs or locks and dams and tail waters. Tail waters have traditionally been limited because of changing, hazardous water conditions and posted as restricted because of public safety and risks to boaters and fishermen when turbulent water is released from control gates. Despite warning signs of Danger and Personal Floatation Device regulations, injuries and fatalities have occurred in these restricted operational areas. When threat conditions are elevated, these areas in direct proximity to federal facilities will be completely off limits to the public.

The public are asked to be aware of suspicious activities, photography or filming around locks, dams, power plants and Corps facilities and report them to your local law enforcement agency.

US Army Corps of Engineers Security-3-3-3

For normal threat conditions, all attempts will be made to maintain public safety and physical security with limited inconvenience to the public. Keep in mind that some shoreline fishing, access roads and boating ramps may be restricted by new fencing and barriers when located in close proximity to the physical structure of the navigation locks and dam or flood control reservoir.

Recreational campgrounds and day use areas are not expected to be impacted by new security improvements, however all customary safety and security procedures are in place to provide a safe and healthy family environment. Public tours, media access and other scheduled public involvement opportunities at US Army Corps of Engineers facilities are encouraged and will be granted by contacting your usual US Army Corps of Engineers contacts or Public Affairs Offices.

This is a normal precautionary measure to ensure security of federal facilities and safety of the communities we serve. There is no evidence of any known threat to US Army Corps of Engineer facilities.

For more information call the US Army Corps of Engineers Public Affairs Office at Pittsburgh, Richard Dowling at 412-395-7501

Nashville, Ed Evans at 615-736-7161

Louisville, Jon Fleshman at 502-315-6770

Huntington, Peggy Noel at 304-529-5451

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